

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 24-28, and 30-36 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 34 have been amended. Claim 29 has been deleted. Claim 36 has been added.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite the array substrate comprises an inorganic material. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification at paragraph 0050. Claim 34 has been amended to recite proper antecedent basis in view of claim 1.

New claim 36 has been added to recite another feature of the invention. Support for new claim 36 can be found in the specification at, *inter alia*, original claim 1, paragraph 0018 (the array), and paragraph 0051 (the organic material and list of polymers). Applicants wish to advise the Examiner that cancelled claim 29, which was previously presented and recites the array substrate comprises an organic material, was searched and examined by the Examiner. New claim 36 merely further defines the organic material recited in claim 29. Therefore, entry of new claim is respectfully requested.

A clean copy of all of the pending claims is attached to this Amendment as an appendix. The appended clean copy of all of the pending claims is provided only as a convenience to the Examiner and is not intended to be an amendment of the claims pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121. No new matter has been added by the new claims; therefore, applicants respectfully request that examination continue on claims 1-7, 24-28, and 30-36.

Interview Summary

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for discussing this case with the undersigned during a telephone interview on January 4, 2007. During the interview, it was agreed that amending claim 1 to recite the array substrate comprises an inorganic material would result in an allowable claim. New claim 36 was also discussed. Although a final Office Action has been issued, it was agreed upon that new claim 36 should be entered due to the fact that previously presented claim 29, which recites the array substrate of claim 1 is an organic material, was searched and examined. The patentability of new claim 36 was also discussed.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Office Action has rejected claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 34 has been amended to recite proper antecedent basis with respect to the reducing agent. Therefore, applicants respectfully request the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action has rejected claims 1-7 and 27-29 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,718,898 to Broeker *et al.* The Office Action asserts that Broeker *et al.* teaches the transfer of antigens from gels to nitrocellulose sheets. The Office Action acknowledges that Broeker *et al.* does not explicitly disclose the transfer of multiple different antigens to the nitrocellulose sheet; however, the Office Action asserts that this limitation is inherent in the methods disclosed in Broeker *et al.*

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection in view of the amendment to claim 1. Claim 1 has been amended to recite the array substrate comprises an inorganic material. Nitrocellulose sheets are membranes prepared by reacting nitric acid with cellulose. For the Examiner's convenience, enclosed in Exhibit A is the structure of nitrocellulose. As can be seen from the structure, nitrocellulose is only composed of carbon, oxygen, nitrogen, and hydrogen. In other words, nitrocellulose is an organic material. Furthermore, claim 30 has been allowed, which recites the substrate comprises an inorganic material. Therefore, applicants respectfully request the invention as recited in claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom be allowed.

With respect to new claim 36, the array substrate comprises an organic material, where the organic material comprises a polyester, a polyvinylchloride, a polyvinylidene fluoride, a polytetrafluoroethylene, a polycarbonate, a polyamide, a poly(meth)acrylate, a polystyrene, a polyethylene, or a ethylene/vinyl acetate copolymer. Nitrocellulose does not fall under any of the polymers recited in claim 36. The polymers recited in new claim 36 provide dimensional stability to the array substrate (*see* paragraph 0051 of the application). Conversely, the

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nitrocellulose sheets disclosed in Broeker *et al.* are flexible and not suitable for an array.
Therefore, the invention as recited in new claim 36 is also patentable over Broeker *et al.*

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to the above remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the pending application is believed to be warranted. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to directly contact the undersigned if such contact may enhance the efficient prosecution of this application to issue.

No fee is believed to be due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1513.

Respectfully submitted,

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